THREE WEEKS SINCE THE PILE OF MUTILATED BODIES WASHED UP ON THE SHORES OF LAKE WASHINGTON.

DRAINED OF BLOOD. BLACKENED EYES. THE ENTIRE CITY WAS ON EDGE, SCREAMING VAMPIRES. BUT WE KNEW DIFFERENT. WE KNEW WHO'D DONE THIS.

FIREBRAND

THE INITIATION OF NATALI PRESANO

CREATED AND WRITTEN BY
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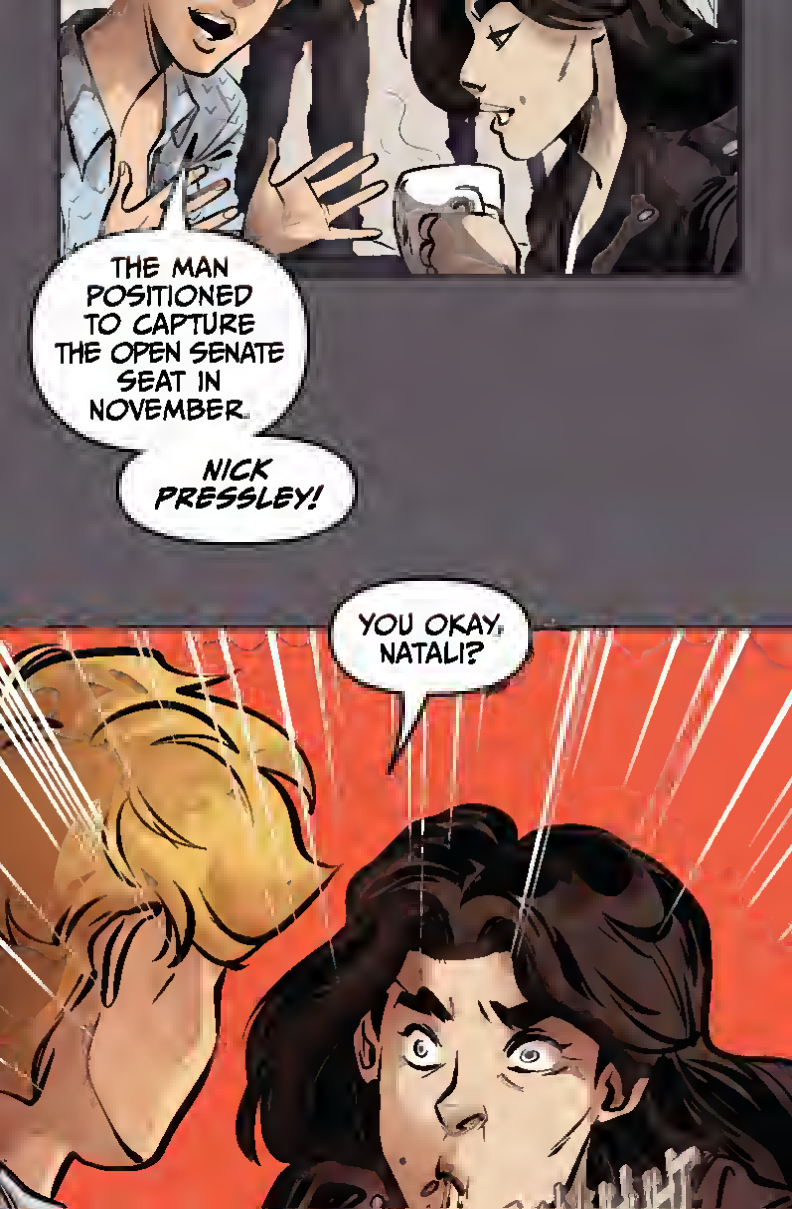
Tom Akel and Robert Napton

PRESANO HOUSE.

THERE WAS NO SIGN OF THE TWO REMAINING LURO SISTERS. THEY'D VANISHED COMPLETELY.

WHILE SELENA CONTINUED TO PATROL DAY AND NIGHT I'D BEEN FORCED TO ACTUALLY OPEN A TEXTBOOK AND STUDY.
I'VE FINALLY DECIDED ON WHO I PICKED FOR MY PAPER.

OH NO YOU DIDN'T!
OH YES, I DID!
WILL YOU TWO PLEASE SHUT UP?


THE MAN POSITIONED TO CAPTURE THE OPEN SENATE SEAT IN NOVEMBER.
NICK PRESSLEY!
YOU OKAY, NATALI?

PLEASE DON'T TELL ME YOU PICKED

HIM TOO?
NO. I HAVEN'T PICKED A PERSON YET.
NICK PRESSLEY IS JAMES PRESSLEY'S BROTHER. SIBLINGS IN THE SENATE AT THE SAME TIME HASN'T HAPPENED SINCE TEDDY AND BOBBY KENNEDY IN THE LATE 60s! IT'S PERFECT.
MARY, IS IT JUST ME

OR ARE YOU A LITTLE TOO EXCITED ABOUT THIS?
PERFECT FOR WHAT?
YOU *HAVE* TO DO JAMES PRESSLEY! I CAN GET YOU AN INTERVIEW WITH HIM.
I'VE A MEETING ALREADY SET UP WITH HIS BROTHER.
I WAS THINKING MORE OF A DEAD PRESIDENT. LIKE GOOD OLD GEORGE WASHINGTON.

THAT'S NOT THE ASSIGNMENT. HE OR SHE HAS TO BE ALIVE.

I'VE GOTTA RUN. ROTARACT MEETING.

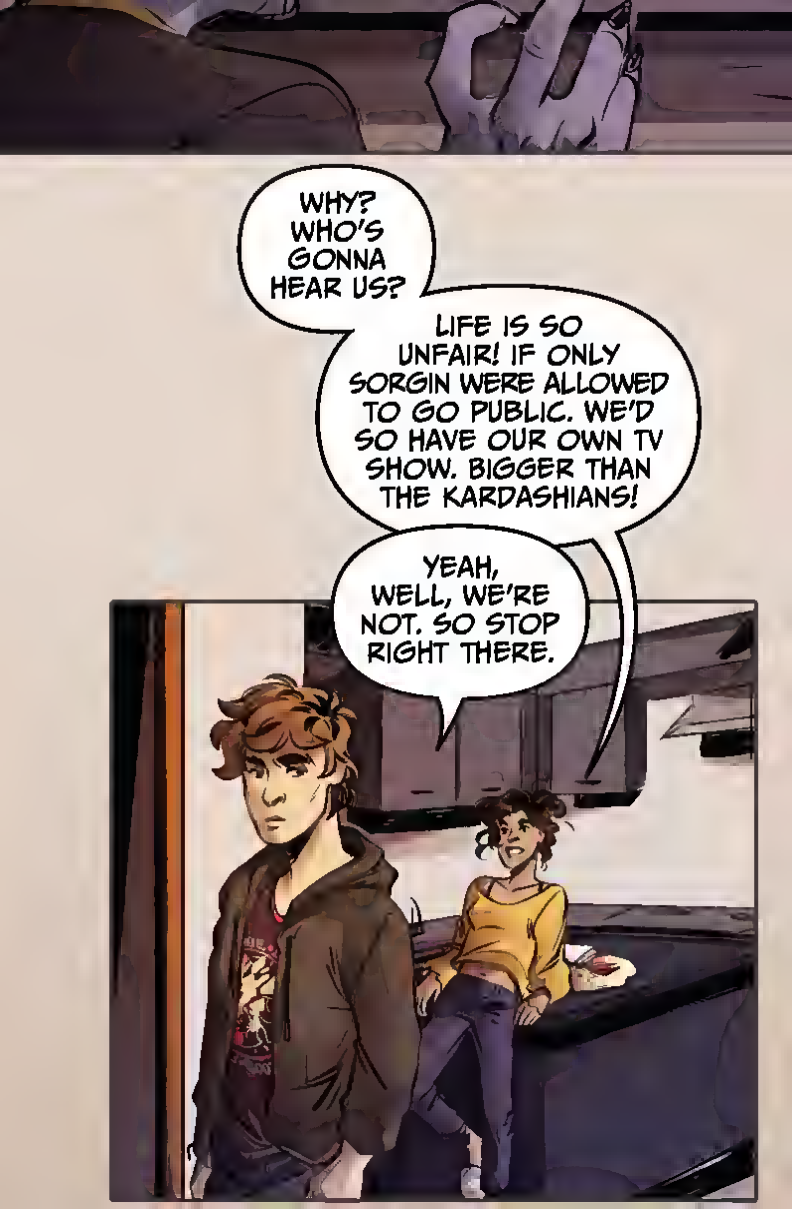
CALL YOU AFTER DINNER, LUKEN?
YEAH. SURE.

MY FATHER GOT ELECTED? THAT MEANS HE'S PROBABLY HERE. IN SEATTLE.
DID I FORGET TO MENTION THAT?
THAT DUDE IS YOUR FATHER? SERIOUSLY? NO OFFENSE BUT I'D *NEVER* VOTE FOR THAT ASSHOLE. HE'S A HATER OF ALL THE THINGS I HOLD NEAR & DEAR TO MY HEART. NOT THAT I'M

OLD ENOUGH TO VOTE YET...

HOLD UP, LUKEN!
WHAT?

JAMES PRESSLEY WAS MARRIED TO ELYSIA PRESANO? A SORGIN?
KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN.


WHY? WHO'S GONNA HEAR US?
LIFE IS SO UNFAIR! IF ONLY SORGIN WERE ALLOWED TO GO PUBLIC. WE'D SO HAVE OUR OWN TV SHOW. BIGGER THAN THE KARDASHIANS!
YEAH, WELL, WE'RE NOT. SO STOP RIGHT THERE.

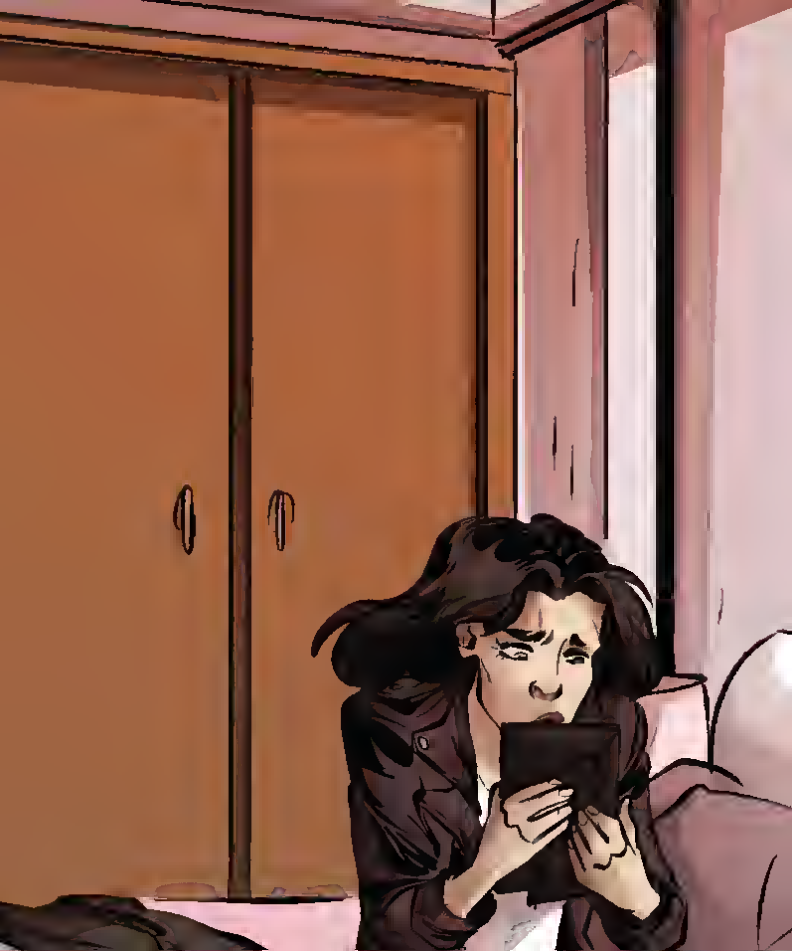
WHAT'S THIS "WE" STUFF, HUMAN?

IT HAS BEEN MORE THAN 13 YEARS SINCE I'VE SEEN MY FATHER. IT'S NOT THAT I DIDN'T WONDER IF HE WAS OKAY. DIDN'T MISS HIM AND WONDER IF HE MISSED ME TOO. OR EVEN CARED THAT I WAS GONE.

EVER SINCE LUKEN TOLD ME HE WAS STILL LOOKING FOR ME, I

CAN'T DENY THAT I'D LIKE TO SEE HIM AGAIN. BUT AT WHAT COST?

WOULD IT BE WORTH THE TROUBLE I'D GET INTO IF I EXPOSED OUR WORLD? I MEAN, WHAT IF NOTHING HAS CHANGED? I'D END UP FEELING AS HEARTBROKEN AS WHEN I LEFT?

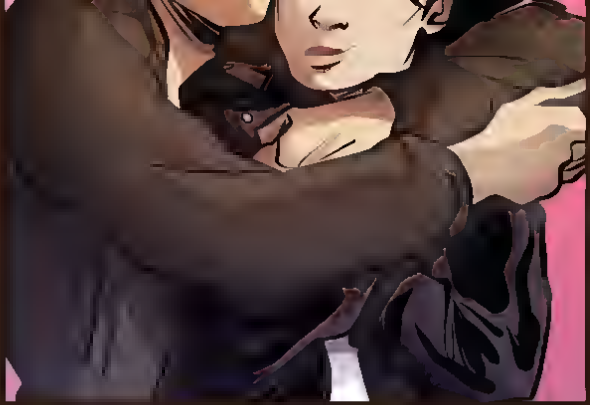


CAN I COME IN?

I DIDN'T THINK YOU WANTED TO TALK ABOUT HIM. YOU NEVER BRING HIM UP.

I DON'T. BUT WHAT IF HE FINDS ME? MY COVER WILL BE ***BLOWN.*** I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK TO EDER.

ZOMBIE
HE WON'T.
HOW DO YOU KNOW? LET ME GUESS. YOU'RE ACTUALLY ONE OF US AND SUDDENLY PSYCHIC?



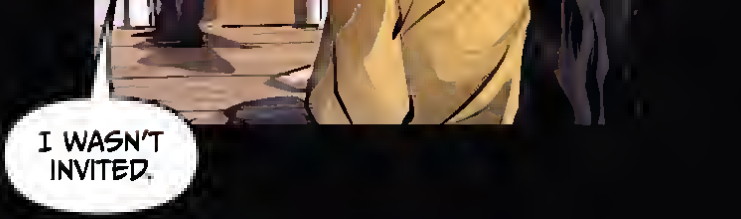
NO. AS PREN POINTED OUT A SECOND AGO, I'M DECIDEDLY HUMAN.

NATALI, SELENA SAID FOR YOU AND I TO PICK HER UP AT SUGGAR'S IN AN HOUR. SOMETHING ABOUT A DAY OF

REMEMBRANCE?
RIGHT. FOR MARI. TODAY'S THE FALL EQUINOX.
I'M SO EXCITED I GET TO GO WHEREVER IT IS SHE GOES. SELENA'S NEVER INVITED ME BEFORE.

SELENA ASKED ME TO GET CANDLES. I'LL PUT THEM IN THE CAR FOR YOU.

AREN'T YOU COMING?



SPARKS FLY ON THE FALL EQUINOX. THEY SAY MARI'S SPIRIT SOARS, TOUCHING EACH OF US, TELLING THE TRAGIC TALE THAT LEFT HER IN A DEEP SLEEP, AND OUR PEOPLE IN A NEVER-ENDING WAR....

LEGENDARY